

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 03386 242112Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15  
SY-05 MCT-01 /062 W  
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R 242030Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5983  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3386

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM  
SUBJECT: MURDER OF PERMANENT SECRETARY REMAINS A MYSTERY

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 3261

1. IN THE WEEK WHICH HAS PASSED SINCE THE FATAL SHOOTING OF WORKS MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY E.A. OGILVIE, (SEE REFTTEL), NO LIGHT HAS BEEN THROWN ON THE MOTIVE FOR THE KILLING OF THE HIGHLY RESPECTED CIVIL SERVANT. AS A RESULT, THE MURDER HAS BECOME THE SUBJECT OF ENDLESS SPECULATION. SOME OF IT ARISES OUT OF THE VERY LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION, WHICH IS DEEMED BY SOME TO REFLECT THE INTERVENTION OF INFLUENCE. MORE OF IT ARISES OUT OF PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS REGARDING THE SHOOTING WHEN HE ARRIVED HOME LAST SUNDAY (JUNE 19); AT THAT TIME HE SAID, "...IF THERE IS ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN INFLUENCE THE DISTRIBUTION OF WORK IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS BY THIS SORT OF OUTRAGEOUS AND ANARCHIST BEHAVIOR, I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO PROTECT CIVIL SER-  
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VANTS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE SYSTEMS WHICH APPLY TO WORK DISTRIBUTION."

2. IN ALMOST ALL SPECULATION, OGILVIE IS SEEN AS THAT JAMAICAN RARA AVIS, THE INCORRUPTIBLE AND HIGHLY COMPETENT GOVERNMENT SERVANT, AND, IN THIS CASE, ONE WHO HAS

PAID FOR HIS SCRUPULOUSNESS. IN ONLY ONE INSTANCE HAS THERE BEEN ANY SUGGESTION THAT OGILVIE WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN INVOLVEMENT WITH CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. RATHER, THE ACCOUNTS WE HEAR FOLLOW TWO GENERAL PATTERNS: FIRST, OGILVIE HAD REFUSED TO SANCTION THE GRANT OF A CONTRACT TO A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, AND WAS KILLED FOR HIS PAINS. SECOND, OGILVIE HAS AMASSED INFORMATION CONCERNING AN EXTENSIVE CONSPIRACY OF CORRUPTION IN CONTRACT AWARDS, AND WAS KILLED TO KEEP HIDDEN THE CONSPIRACY -- WHICH, IN ITS VARIOUS VERSIONS, INVOLVES CONTRACTORS, GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND/OR POLITICANS.

3. A BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH OGILVIE'S MINISTER, ERNEST PEART, A MEMBER OF THE "MODERATE" FACTION OF THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP), THREW NO DIRECT LIGHT ON THE MATTER. HE ASSERTED TO AN EMBOFF THAT HE KNEW OF NO REASON WHY OGILVIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT, BUT WAS ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE VERSIONS MAKING THE ROUNDS. WHATEVER PEART MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNWILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE THAT THERE IS NO SORT OF CONSPIRACY OR VENDETTA AT WORK. THE WORKS MINISTRY IS PRESENTLY GUARDED BY SOLDIERS OF THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE WHO ARE CARRYING RIFLES WITH BAYONETS AFFIXED AND ARE WEARING HELMETS. ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BEFORE ENTERING THE MINISTRY'S COMPOUND.

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4. THE DEATH OF OGILVIE REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED A RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, HEADED BY THE VICIOUS TONY SPAULDING, AND PEART'S MINISTRY OF WORKS. THE LATTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN CONTROL OVER "GULLY SCHEMES", I.E., THE STRAIGHTENING AND CHANNELING OF THE PRECIPITIOUS WATER COURSES WHICH PASS THROUGH KINGSTON. WORK IN THESE GULLIES HAS INVOLVED VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUMS AND HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN A KEY PATRONAGE PLUM FOR SPAULDING. IN THE STORIES WHICH CENTER ON THE TRANSFER OF THE "GULLY SCHEMES", REFERENCE IS ALWAYS MADE TO SPAULDING'S VERY ROUGH AND READY SET OF CONTRACTING FRIENDS AND WELL-WISHERS, THE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH PLACE SPAULDING AND PEART IN OPPOSING FACTIONS AND THE VERY GREAT LIKELIHOOD THAT OGILVIE WOULD HAVE ENCOUNTERED A DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED CONTRACTOR WHO WAS ACCUSTOMED TO THE FREE AND EASY SPIRIT OF THE SPAULDING MINISTRY AND WAS UNABLE TO SET THE RELEVANCE OF COMPETENCE AND PRICE IN THE AWARDING OF CONTRACTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009